

EXTERNAL

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Death penalty

12 August 1996

JORDANKayed Ahmad, aged 29

Kayed Ahmad was sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court on 25 July 1996, having been convicted of murder. His case will be reviewed by the Court of Cassation by 24 August. If the death sentence is ratified, Kayed Ahmad could be executed as soon as King Hussain bin Talal ratifies it.

Amnesty International does not condone crimes of violence, and recognizes the responsibility of governments to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, it opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed its concerns to the Jordanian authorities about the increase in the use of the death penalty over the last three years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to reports, 14 people have been sentenced to death during 1996. At least seven people have been executed during the year, while tens of people are believed to be awaiting execution on death row.

Amnesty International recently expressed its disappointment to the Jordanian Government at the increase in the number crimes punishable by the death penalty, and at the steady increase in the number of executions carried out over the last three years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Arabic/English or your own language:

- expressing sympathy to victims of violent crime and their families and acknowledging the right and duty of the government to bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes, but stating opposition to the death penalty in all cases;
- urging that the death sentence imposed on Kayed Ahmad by the Criminal Court on 25 July 1996 be commuted if it is ratified by the Court of Cassation;
- asking how the Government can justify the continued use of the death penalty given its stated commitment to human rights;
- urging that no further executions be carried out in Jordan.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
The Royal Palace
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: +962-6-634-755
Telegrams: King Hussein, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Majesty

2) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim Kabariti
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
PO Box 80
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Faxes: +962 6 642 520

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Amman, Jordan

Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughami
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

4) His Excellency Awad Khleifat
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Faxes: +962 6 606 908
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Arab Organization for Human Rights (Jordan)
PO Box 922430
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

and to diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 September 1996.